From: Pete Rodriguez
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 4:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir/Madam,

I just want to express my opinion as to what I see as a needless persecution of Microsoft Corporation in the last 5 years. Most of the arguments in regards to Microsoft's browser integration with the operating system as Microsoft's way of closing the system to competition is incorrect. In light of the recent viruses and DDOS attacks, this integration and openess have actually allowed Microsoft's Windows and email system to be more vulnerable. There are enough documented APIs out there that more rogue software can be developed. In my opinion allowing unrestricted access to all source code will make Microsoft more vulnerable to future attacks on its Windows Operating System. As to JAVA and other middleware for the browser and server environment, they too are susceptible to these attacks. A new way needs to be develop to open up the Internet and develop applications difficult to hack and launch DDOS attacks. Narrowly focusing on the IE Browser and Windows as the way Microsoft will dominate the Internet is already proven more a liability to being hacked than a Microsoft advantage. Please let Microsoft improved and fixed their vulnerabilities unhampered with more litigation whose main argument have been proven false more than 5 years after this antitrust cases were filed. The argument that Browser and Internet integration gives Microsoft an upperhand against other application developers does not hold water. We now know its a double-edge sword. It actually created more jobs and companies whose main product is to prevent or contain these virus attacks. It gave Microsoft a black-eye because machines were going down because of IE and Outlook launched viruses. Please allow Microsoft freedom to innovate, fixed and improve its products.

Respectfully,
Pete Rodriguez

CC: MSFIN@Microsoft.com@inetgw